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PREFACE.

It may be well, in giving to the public this study in municipal economy and administration, to mention the sources of information that have been used. Most of the material was obtained by personal visits to every city, excepting the small town of Bellefontaine, of the nine that own their gas works. These visits were made in August and December of 1890, save in the case of Hamilton, which was visited in June, 1891. Much information was also gathered from all the cities by correspondence with the city officials.

The excellent account of the history of city ownership in Philadelphia, given in an appendix, was written by Mr. W. S. Outerbridge, Jr., a graduate student of the Wharton School of Political Science in the University of Pennsylvania. In its preparation he was much assisted by Mr. Talcott Williams, of *The Philadelphia Press*, and by Mr. C. W. A. Veditz, another graduate student of the Wharton School, who began the work, but was forced by sickness to turn it over to Mr. Outerbridge. Special mention should also be made of the aid received from Superintendent W. C. Adams, of the Richmond Gas Works; Mr. R. T. Cook, secretary of the Alexandria works; Mr. William Cannings, superintendent of the Henderson works, and Mr. F. W. Reutlinger, city clerk of Henderson, Ky.; Superintendent S. M. Darrah, of the

Wheeling works, and Mr. A. A. Franzheim, clerk of the gas department of Wheeling; Mr. S. L. Smith, corporation clerk of Bellefontaine, Ohio; Captain C. A. Ballou, city engineer and superintendent of the Danville, Va., works; Mayor Samuel B. Woods and Superintendent T. J. Williams, of the Charlottesville, Va., works; Mr. Willard Smyers, clerk, and Colonel George H. Phillips, superintendent of the Hamilton, O., works; Mr. Israel Williams, attorney at Hamilton, and many others. Recent articles in the *Gas Light Journal* and the *Progressive Age*, the reports of Philadelphia, of the Massachusetts gas and electric light commission, and other authorities mentioned in the text, have been studied.

No one is better aware than the writer of the probability of some mistakes having crept into the numerous tables or statements here presented, but pains have been taken to make these errors as few as possible. It is hoped that, whatever be the criticism of some of the conclusions presented, there will be general acceptance of the honesty and fullness of the presentation of facts on municipal ownership here attempted.

E. W. B.